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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR 17 AUG 1954

SUBJECT Status of Staraya-Russa-Valdai-Bologoye
Line/Railroads from Grozny to Tbilisi/
Places of Resettlement of Ethnic Groups

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
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The Staraya-Russa-Valdai-Bologoye railroad line was completely destroyed during World War II. The Germans confiscated all railroad ties and rails and destroyed all bridges and dams along the road. The line was later re-built very quickly by the Soviets and followed the same route as it had previously. It was Soviet gauge and covered the same distance as before. The roadbed was not capable of supporting long trains.

troop supplies
were transported over this road.

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There is a railroad line through Grozny - Maklach Kala /sic/ - Baku - Alyaty to Grozny. Another railroad line passes through Grozny - Mozdok - Amarvir /sic/ Sukhumi - Kutaisi to Tbilisi. There is also supposed to be a railroad line from Grozny to Ordzhonikidze, through the Pass Krestov and on to Tbilisi.

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Before World War II, there was a concentrated settlement of ethnic Germans at Engel's on the Volga River. During hostilities, however, the Soviets accused these individuals of disloyalty and moved them behind the Ural Mountains in the region of the Caspian Sea. Engel's was thereafter used as a training area for the Soviet Army. Before World War II, there were various settlements of ethnic Ukrainians in the Ukraine as for instance near Odessa and Astrakhan. These groups were not as large as the German ethnic group at Engel's. During hostilities, the Ukrainian ethnic groups were also resettled behind the Ural Mountains in the region bordering on the Caspian Sea.

the relocation of the Crimean Tatars [redacted] imprisoned [redacted] Their estimates of the Crimean Tatars who were relocated varied from 300 thousand to three million. [redacted] this group was also resettled near the Caspian Sea.

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